

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is responsive to Amendment, filed on 04/18/2008.

Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16-17, 21-24, 29-36, 41-43, and 45-51 are pending in this application. In the Amendment, claims 1-5, 7, 14, 16, 21-24 were amended, and claims 6, 8, 11, 15, 18-20, 25-28, 37-40, 44, and 52 were canceled.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Golladay II on 07/14/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a display that displays an image indicating a function and allows a user to instruct the image forming apparatus to perform the function by selecting the image; and

a display arrangement control device that judges functions added to the image forming apparatus, that determines where to position images to be displayed in the display, each of the images to be displayed indicating a function which is judged to be added to the image forming apparatus, and that displays the images on the display according to the determined positioning,

wherein a plurality of images are displayed in a first case, less than all of the plurality of

images displayed in the first case are displayed in a second case, and the display arrangement control device determines the positioning so that at least one image is displayed in a position which is different in the first case than in the second case, and

the display of the image indicating the function added to the image forming apparatus is determined according to mounting conditions of additional devices added to the image forming apparatus.

2. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a display that displays an image indicating a function and allows a user to instruct the image forming apparatus to perform the function by selecting the image; and

a display arrangement control device that judges functions added to the image forming apparatus, that determines where to position images to be displayed in the display, each of the images to be displayed indicating a function which is judged to be added to the image forming apparatus, and that displays the images on the display according to the determined positioning,

wherein a plurality of images are displayed in a first case, less than all of the plurality of images displayed in the first case are displayed in a second case, and the display arrangement control device determines the positioning so that at least one image is displayed in a size which is different in the first case than in the second case, and

the display of the image indicating the function added to the image forming apparatus is determined according to mounting conditions of additional devices added to the image forming apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a display that displays an image indicating a function and allows a user to instruct the

image forming apparatus to perform the function by selecting the image; and

a display arrangement control device that judges functions added to the image forming apparatus, that determines where to position images to be displayed in the display, each of the images to be displayed indicating a function which is judged to be added to the image forming apparatus, and that displays the images on the display according to the determined positioning,

wherein a plurality of images are displayed in a first case, less than all of the plurality of images displayed in the first case are displayed in a second case, and the display arrangement control device determines the positioning so that at least one image is displayed in a shape which is different in the first case than in the second case, and

the display of the image indicating the function added to the image forming apparatus is determined according to mounting conditions of additional devices added to the image forming apparatus.

4. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a display that displays an image indicating a function and allows a user to instruct the image forming apparatus to perform the function by selecting the image; and

a display arrangement control device that judges functions added to the image forming apparatus, that determines where to position images to be displayed in the display, each of the images to be displayed indicating a function which is judged to be added to the image forming apparatus, and that displays the images on the display according to the determined positioning,

wherein a plurality of images are displayed in a first case, less than all of the plurality of images displayed in the first case are displayed in a second case, and the display arrangement control device determines the positioning so that the images are displayed with a larger interval

between the images in the second case than in the first case, and

the display of the image indicating the function added to the image forming apparatus is determined according to mounting conditions of additional devices added to the image forming apparatus.

5. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a display that displays an image indicating a function and allows a user to instruct the image forming apparatus to perform the function by selecting the image; and

a display arrangement control device that judges functions added to the image forming apparatus, that determines where to position images to be displayed in the display, each of the images to be displayed indicating a function which is judged to be added to the image forming apparatus, and that displays the images on the display according to the determined positioning,

wherein a plurality of images are displayed in a first case, less than all of the plurality of images displayed in the first case are displayed in a second case, and the display arrangement control device determines the positioning so that the images are displayed in a larger size in the second case than in the first case, and

the display of the image indicating the function added to the image forming apparatus is determined according to mounting conditions of additional devices added to the image forming apparatus.

7. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

16-17. (Canceled)

21-24. (Canceled)

51. (Canceled)

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-5, 9-10, 12-13, 29-36, 41-43, and 45-50 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art either alone or in combination doesn't teach the limitation of "a display arrangement control device that determines where to position images to be displayed in the display, each of the images to be displayed indicating a function which is judge to be added to the image forming apparatus, and that displays the images on the display according to the determined positioning. A plurality of images are displayed in a first case, less than all of the plurality of images displayed in the first case are displayed in the second case, and the display arrangement control device determines the positioning in various ways including (1) so that at least one image is displayed in a position which is different in the first case than in the second case (claim 1); (2) at least one image is displayed in a size which is different in the first case than in the second case (claim 2); (3) at least one image is displayed in a shape which is different in the first case than in the second case (claim 3); (4) images are displayed with a larger interval between the images in the second case than in the first case (claim 4); and (5) the images are displayed in a larger size in the second case than in the first case (claim 5). The display of the image indicating a function added to the image forming apparatus is determined according to mounting conditions of additional devices added to the image forming apparatus" in combination with the other claimed features.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THANH T. VU whose telephone number is (571)272-4073. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon- Fri 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William L. Bashore can be reached on (571) 272-4088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thanh T. Vu/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2175

